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AROUND THE WORLD

Hoare Says CIA Consulted

JOHANNESBURG — Mike Hoare, leader of the mercenary force that tried to stage a coup in the Seychelles Islands last November, said in his second day in court that he had discussed his plan at an early stage with a CIA agent in Pretoria.

Ex-colonel Hoare, who refused to name the agent, said he sought tacit U.S. support for the planned coup and therefore tried to interest the agent in the strategic value of the Indian Ocean islands to the United States.

While the CIA showed interest in his project, said Hoare, "there had recently been an internal upheaval in the agency, and they were extremely timid."

Hoare is on trial with 42 other mercenaries for hijacking an Air India airliner, after their coup failed, to fly back to South Africa, where they had begun their mission. On Monday, Hoare said South Africa knew about the coup plan in advance and supplied the arms.